



Life Science CLUSTERS

Strategy – Location – Partnerships

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Emerging US clusters start to snap

- Spain gets bullish
- Lyonbiopôle fights infection

Getting together: cluster alliances • Outsourcing

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Cover:
*Location USA looks at
emerging life science clusters
which aim to snap at the heels
of the established majors*

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Montgomery County: Maryland's economic engine



Home to 19 federal research and regulatory agencies, half of Maryland's entire life sciences cluster workforce, and the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center, Montgomery County is the economic engine of Maryland.

Montgomery County, Maryland, is the 'Smart Business Location' for innovative and diverse businesses emerging from around the corner, and around the globe. Home to 19 federal research and regulatory agencies, half of Maryland's entire life sciences cluster workforce, and the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center, Montgomery County is the economic engine of Maryland. Shady Grove Life Sciences Center was the nation's first business park zoned exclusively for life sciences, and today provides employment for some 45,000 workers in public, private, academic, and medical organisations. During 2008, the County added more than 11,000 knowledge-based jobs, despite the on-going economic downturn.

Business Innovation Network

Central to this effort is the County's thriving Business Innovation Network, a programme of the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, offering tenants turnkey office and/or wet lab space, fully integrated conference rooms, and critical resource and support services including business, legal, intellectual property, and technical assistance. The Network consists of five facilities strategically located throughout the County and provides over 150,000 sq ft (13,800 sq m) of incubator office and lab space, and currently houses some 140+ companies with around 350 employees. Since 2000, the Network has

graduated over 90 companies that have created nearly 2000 jobs and occupy over 500,000 sq ft (46,000 sq m) of commercial space in the County.

Stem cell R&D from Korea

RNL Biostar, a wholly owned subsidiary of Korean biotechnology company RNL Bio, recently expanded from the County's first incubator facility to the newest, the Germantown Innovation Center, where it opened a stem cell R&D and manufacturing facility, investing \$6M for equipment purchase and facility improvements. The company expects to create 50 new jobs in the County within the next three years.

"RNL Biostar's expansion illustrates the strength and scope of our diverse biotech community," said Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett.

Notable successes

While MedImmune (purchased in 2007 by AstraZeneca) is perhaps Montgomery County's most notable and successful biotech company, with such products as FluMist® and Synagis® on the market, the County is home to over 250 other notable life science companies including:

- *Human Genome Sciences* – in partnership with GlaxoSmithKline plc (GSK), the company's lupus drug candidate Benlysta™ recently met the primary endpoint in BLISS-52, the first of two pivotal Phase 3 trials in patients with lupus.

- *Aeras Global TB Vaccine*

Foundation – recently opened a tuberculosis vaccine manufacturing facility in Rockville with capacity to produce 200 million doses of a new TB vaccine. Aeras, a graduate of the County's Business Innovation Network, is a non-profit research organisation and has assembled the broadest TB vaccine product pipeline in the world.

- *United Therapeutics Corp* – founded and headquartered in Montgomery County in 1996, received recent FDA approvals for two drugs to treat Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. The company's 100,000 sq ft (9200 sq m) Phase II headquarters expansion in Silver Spring opens this fall providing additional office and lab space for 150+ employees.

Strategic initiatives

Recent, strategic initiatives in Montgomery County include:

- Formation of a *Montgomery County Biosciences Task Force* – a 34-member advisory group, chaired by former MedImmune CEO David Mott, created to help the County better leverage its competitive bioscience strengths, build stronger public, private and academic partnerships, and attract new, large private sector life science companies with the resources to accelerate the commercialisation of products and services in the County. The Task Force will release the County's new biotech strategy this fall.

- *New Green Economic Development Initiative* (GEDI) – with the goal to advance businesses, technologies, and jobs within Montgomery County that develop, deploy or adopt green products and services. A key component is the formation of a new Green Economy Task Force to help the County forge a comprehensive strategy for sustaining and advancing a green economy well into the future.

- Montgomery County was selected by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley as a co-location for the new *Maryland Biotechnology Center*, further supporting the continued growth and success of the County's vital biotechnology industry.

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"RNL Biostar's expansion of its US subsidiary adds to the wealth of scientific capital found in Montgomery County".

Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive

